

R^1 is para-nitrobenzyl or allyl;

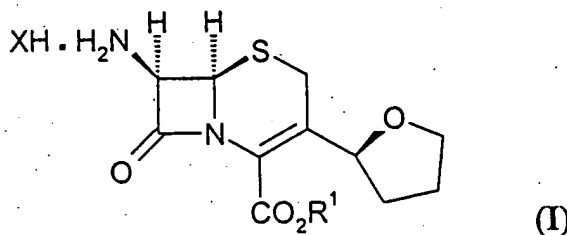
R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{6-10} aryl, C_{6-10} aryl C_{1-6} alkyl and dithianyl; and

b) reacting said compound of formula (II) with a Lewis acid of structure PX_5 where X is a halo group.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

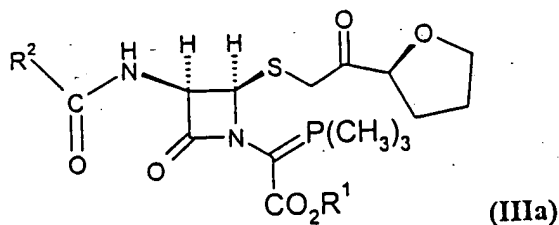
Please replace the Abstract at Page 44, lines 1-8 with new Abstract:

The present invention relates to a process for preparing a compound of formula (I)



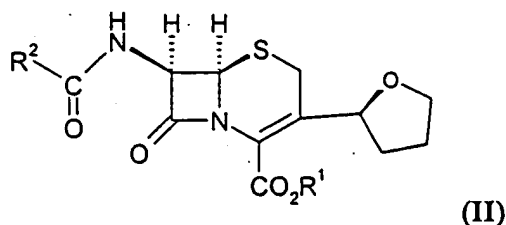
wherein R^1 is para-nitrobenzyl or allyl; preferably para-nitrobenzyl; X is halo selected from the group consisting of bromo, chloro, fluoro and iodo, preferably chloro; by

a) cyclizing a trimethylphosphinic compound of the formula (IIIa):



wherein R^1 is para-nitrobenzyl or allyl, preferably para-nitrobenzyl; and R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{6-10} aryl, C_{6-10} aryl C_{1-6} alkyl and dithianyl; preferably

C₆₋₁₀ aryl C₁₋₆ alkyl, such as benzyl; in a solvent; to form a compound of formula (II)



β^2 wherein R¹ is para-nitrobenzyl or allyl, preferably para-nitrobenzyl; and

R² is selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₆₋₁₀ aryl, C₆₋₁₀ aryl C₁₋₆ alkyl and dithianyl; preferably C₆₋₁₀ aryl C₁₋₆ alkyl, such as benzyl;

and if desired

b) reacting said compound of formula (II) with a Lewis acid of structure PX₅ where X is a halo group to form said compound of formula (I). This invention also relates to compounds useful in such process.

REMARKS

Upon careful and complete consideration of the Office Action dated October 1, 2002, applicants have amended the claims which, when considered in conjunction with the comments herein below, are deemed to place the present application into condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully solicited.

Applicants initially wish to acknowledge the Examiner's withdrawal of the prior restriction requirement and to thank him for his reconsideration thereof.

The present Office Action rejected claims 1-31 under 35 U.S.C. §112, paragraphs 1 and 2, as it alleged the claimed invention was not described, or was not described in such full,